(iv) Under the Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI) of Ministry of MSME, four Bambooo and Cane clusters have been identified in NER (two in Assam, one each in Mizoram and Meghalaya) for skill building/capacity development of grassroots artisans and technology upgradation. Around 3000 artisans have been covered under the schemes.

Electrification of railway tracks

889. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the policy of his Ministry regarding electrification of railway tracks;

(b) whether it is not proper to have railway tracks electrified to be optimum; and

(c) how many proposals for electrification of railway tracks have been recommended from the State of Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh and what is the present status of these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Electrification projects are considered primarily on traffic volumes, economic viability and operational necessity.

(c) No proposal has been recommended by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh in recent past. The State Government of Rajasthan had recommended electrification of Bina-Kota, Jaipur-Sawai Madhopur and Ratlam-Neemuch-Chittorgarh sections, amongst which, work is in progress on Bina-Kota section. Electrification of the other two routes has not been found viable on present volumes of traffic.

Loco reparing factory at Anugul

†890. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees working at present in the loco repairing factory situated at Anugul in Orissa;

(b) the work being actually carried out in that factory at present;

(c) whether Government accepts that the pace of work of the factory is slow; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the measures to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Approximately 176 employees are working at present in the electric loco shed at Anugal in Orissa.

(b) At present 44 electric locomotives are allotted for their maintenance at the electric loco shed at Anugul. The prescribed inspection and maintenance schedules and unscheduled repairs of electric locos are carried out.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.